

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 197968

15

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETEL MARR NATO

SUBJECT: NATO SATCOM GROUND TERMINAL (SGT) IN ICELAND

REF: A) USNATO 4032 DTG 311659Z JUL 75

-- B) STATE 010501 DTG 161644Z JAN 75

1. WE CONTINUE TO BE PREPARED TO MAKE ANY REASONABLE
ARRANGEMENT TO HAVE NATO GROUND STATION ESTABLISHED IN
ICELAND. TERMS OUTLINED IN REF (B) SEEM TO PROVIDE FOR A
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PAGE 02 STATE 197968

FAIR COST SHARING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN US AND NATO, TAKING

INTO CONSIDERATION BENEFITS THAT EACH WOULD DERIVE FROM THIS TERMINAL.

2. MISSION SHOULD REPRESENT THE US AT ANY JOINT NATO/US WORKING GROUP MEETING AND, IF APPROPRIATE, MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

-- A. US FORCES ARE IN ICELAND IN SUPPORT OF NATO. OUR NEEDS ARE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OUR FORCES IN EUROPE WHICH ARE ALSO IN SUPPORT OF NATO. THIS IS DIFFERENT THAN A NATO NATION WITH REQUIREMENTS TO COMMUNICATE WITH ITS OWN FORCES ON ITS OWN SOIL.

-- B) THE US DID NOT ASK TO BE HOST NATION FOR ICELAND SGT. WE WERE ASKED TO CONSIDER TAKING ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY BY NATO AUTHORITIES. AS A CONDITION FOR ASSUMING THE O-M RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SGT, WE REQUIRE USE OF 26 AVAILABLE CHANNELS. WE REALIZE THAT NATO WOULD NOT NORMALLY PURCHASE EXTRA MULTIPLEX AND OTHER NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO ACCOMMODATE US ONLY USEAGE, AND WE ARE WILLING TO RECONSIDER THIS CHARGE TO NATO.

-- C) ALL NATO PROCURED GROUND TERMINALS, INCLUDING THE ONE FOR ICELAND, WILL HAVE A SIMILAR CAPACITY REGARDLESS OF CIRCUIT REQUIREMENTS. ACCORDINGLY, IF US DOES NOT MAKE USE OF THIS CAPABILITY, THE ICELAND SGT WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE SPARE CAPACITY, AS WILL THE NATO PHASE III SPACE SEGMENT.

-- D) WE REALIZE THAT THE VALUE OF 26 CHANNELS ON THE SATELLITE MAY EXCEED THE COST TO THE US OF OPERATING THE GROUND TERMINAL, BUT THIS ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PART OF THE NATO RATIONALIZATION PROGRAM UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF DPC/D(74)2. WE HAVE PROVIDED NATO TRANSMISSION FACILITIES IN SOUTHERN EUROPE, AND SERVICE FROM THE AZORES. ALSO, WE HAVE OFFERED NATO INTERIM USE OF AUTODIN AND ARE STUDYING THE POSSIBILITY OF CONSOLIDATING COMMUNICATIONS IN THE NORFOLK AREA. COMPENSATION FOR THESE PROGRAMS WILL BE BALANCED OUT IN THE LONG RUN UNDER QUID PRO QUO UMBRELLA OF RATIONALIZATION. NATO
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PAGE 03 STATE 197968

AUTHORITIES SHOULD ALSO ADDRESS EFFORT IN SPIRIT OF MUTUAL COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORT, A PROGRAM THAT WILL HELP HUSBAND LIMITED RESOURCES OF BOTH NATO AND US.

3. WE HAVE NOT SEEN DETAILED COMMENTS REFERRED TO IN PARA 3 OF REF A. IF GUIDANCE OUTLINED IN THIS MESSAGE IS CONSIDERED ADEQUATE, YOU SHOULD SUGGEST THAT JOINT MEETING REFERRED TO IN PARA 4 OF REF A BE SCHEDULED AS

A NEXT STEP.

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